work out the liabilities from whatever data become available from which ever source.

(d) and (e) To the extent information is available M/s Rhone Poulanc has stopped the production of bulk drug Sulphadiazine, Phthalyl Sulphathiazole, Metronidazole and Prochlor Peprazine. The information regarding manufacturing of drugs from imported penultimate intermediates and the details of import of the intermediates during the last 3 years will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

PAC recommendation on drugs

1283. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2072 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1993 and state:

(a) what action the Ministry has taken on the PAC recommendations in so far as drugs are concerned;

(b) what are the details of all those cases where CIF prices were increased when customs duty was reduced during the last two years;

(c) what steps have been taken to investigate the whole matter and what steps have been taken to fix responsibility;

(d) whether it is a fact that M/s Cadila, M/s HAL and M/s PCI are importing Cefotaxin Sodium z at $ 1000 per Kg, CIF whereas M/s Hoechst is importing at over $1500 per Kg CIF and what action was taken to stop such practices; and

(e) what steps have been taken to investigate the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) As stated earliar in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2072 answered on 12-8-1993, the recommendations contained in the 5th report of the Public Accounts Committee, 10th Lok Sabha (1991-92) regarding monitoring of customs duty concessions, are general in nature and not specific to drugs. The Ministry of Finance has furnished an action taken note on the said recommendations of the Committee.

(b) and (c) Imports of bulk drugs/drug intermediates/raw materials are not monitored by this Ministry.

(d) and (e) To the extent information is available, the cif prices of various bulk drugs imported by companies vary depending upon the source of supply, quantity imported quality of the drugs and terms of payment etc.

Policy on price escalation

1284. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided in halt price escalation based on the input prices for a bulk drug beyond statutory three years lock-in period;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that price escalation is proposed to be allowed after technical input-output norms are determined for the next lock-in period by the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices (BICP);

(d) whether Government have taken any policy decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a), (c) and (d) No, Sir.

(b) and (e) Do not arise.

Reversal of decontrol of Molasses distribution

1285. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations from State Governments to reverse decontrol of molasses distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken note of the problems being faced by molasses users due to decontrol; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government on the large profits being made by molasses producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The various issues arising out of decontrol of molasses and alcohol were raised in a Conference of Excise Ministers of the States and Union Territories on 4-11-1993. The Conference set up a Group of State Excise Ministers under the Chairmanship of Karnataka Chief Minister to look into the matter and suggest measures to harmonise the rules and procedures in the States to bring them in tune with the decontrol of molasses and alcohol.

Potash Fertilizer

1286. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the annual requirement of potash fertilizers in the country and how these requirements are met;

(b) what is the amount of potash fertilizers imported during years 1990-91 to 1993-94; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are proposals to set up sufficient number of potash fertilizer units to attain self-sufficiency in their production; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) The consumption of potash (nutrient) during the current year (1993-94) is estimated to be 9 lakh tonnes. The quantities of potash (nutrient) imported during the years 1990-91 to 1993-94 (upto December 1993) are given below :—

Year	Qty. in nutrient terms (lakh Mts)
1990-91 . . .	13.28
1991-92 . . .	12.36
1992-93 . . .	10.82
1993-94 . . . (upto December)	6.16

Since there are no known, commercially exploitable reserves of potash in India, the country's requirements are met wholly through imports.

There is adequate capacity in the country for the manufacture of complex fertilizers based on imported MOP. There is no concrete proposal at present to set up any plant for the manufacture of MOP.

Cases of Overcharging of prices

1287. PROF. I. G. SANADI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2092 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1993 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that files relating to cases of overcharging of prices have been removed from the Government records in connivance with the Officers. if so, what are the details of Jagson Pal, M/s Systopic and others;

(b) what are the products and companies against whom the cases have been filed by the State Governments so far and what are the issues involved in these cases;

(c) whether these cases have been filed at the instance of the Ministry or by the State Drug Controllers of their own; and

(d) what are the cases of overcharging which have been brought to the notice of the Ministry but where neither the cases have been filed nor the recoverable amounts have been calculated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FLEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) This Department had received some complaints of alleged overcharging of the bulk drugs, the detaills of which are given in the Statement (See below). As and when any complaint of alleged overcharging of bulk drugs is received, the same is forwarded to the concerned State Drug Control Administration for investigation and necessary action under the Essential Commodities Act 1955. To the extent information is available, the State Drug Controller of Maharashtra had filed in Court of Law against 9 units including traders and manufacturers. The State Drug Controller of Gujarat has also initiated action against 3 units on account of overcharging of prices.